

Debating Society Government

Congress Making Grave Mistake in Limiting Number of Troops to Be Sent to Europe

Congress has a right to say whether troops shall be sent to Europe but the members will be making a grave mistake if they attempt to substitute their judgment for that of the Commander-in-Chief in determining how many soldiers, sailors or airmen shall be sent abroad. The situation here is becoming tangled because fundamentalists are being lost sight of.

Government by debating society is all right for civilian problems but debating societies cannot run armies, navies or air forces.

Congress two years ago passed a law declaring that the Joint Chiefs of Staff are the principal military advisers of the Commander-in-Chief. No democracy can survive in a critical emergency if it has to submit military operations, plans and movements to a legislative body for approval or disapproval.

There is a proper question for Congress to decide—not one house but both houses—and that's the question of whether troops shall be sent to Europe at all. The issue in a sense already has been resolved because the North Atlantic Treaty has been ratified, and this plainly implies that America must do her share to withstand attack in Europe on any signatory nation. This means that every member nation, including the United States, must supply adequate forces not merely to repel an attack but to deter an attack.

Once Congress has decided to give the President authority, therefore, to send troops to Europe or to defend the American troops who are already there,

the question of how many reinforcements is a military matter. Even the ceiling imposed by Congress on the entire armed services at 4,000,000 at this time is wrong in principle. It can be justified, however, only on a tentative basis as a means of fixing budget requirements and only if the figure is well in excess of what is needed, assuming no outbreak of large-scale war.

Much of the present confusion could have been avoided if the President had met at the outset of the crisis the challenge with respect to the authority of the executive to send troops outside continental United States. There are dozens of precedents but no two of them present identical circumstances.

Even if there were a thousand precedents, the President would be well-advised to lay the issue before Congress and ask for a simple grant of power from both houses to send to Europe whatever troops are necessary to carry out the North Atlantic treaty obligations. The phraseology doesn't have to be any more specific because nobody really knows how many troops will be necessary if an emergency does arise.

Such a resolution by Congress, moreover, would confront every member with a decision as to whether he wants to leave the present American forces in Europe undefended and subject to sudden attack there. It is probable that both houses would go on record giving the necessary authority, though a preamble—an expression of purpose—might accompany it saying it was hoped that the use of the troops

would become unnecessary. It could declare an intention to review the authority granted in the event that a peaceful settlement of existing disputes is accomplished.

There are many examples in legislative history whereby Congress has passed an armament bill but accompanied it with a proviso that the armament would be reduced in the event international settlements satisfactory to this country were some day achieved.

The effort in Congress to limit the number of divisions which may be sent to Europe really may not prove the incentive it is intended to be to other nations. The Western democracies will naturally raise as many divisions as they can, consistent with their economic situation, and they will not be impressed by the limitation anyway. For they know that in an emergency the Congress of the United States will authorize the Executive to disregard it or will ratify any action he takes in such an emergency.

About any limitation does, therefore, is to notify the Communist world that American military strategy is neither firm nor farsighted and that it isn't in the hands of the military chiefs but in the hands of the legislators. This is an ideal break for an organized dictatorship which scorns democracy as unorganized and futile in the pinches. An organized democracy can defeat a dictatorship but public opinion will have to influence Congress to begin some task of organizing our military effort on a more effective basis.

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LOUIE

—By Harry Hanan



Henry McLemore:

Blow-by-Blow Description Of Visit to Blue Grotto

CAPRI—To come here and not go to see the Blue Grotto would be like going to Washington and refusing to look at the Capitol.

There is a great difference, however, in the means of transportation you use in visiting these two famous sights. The Capitol can be reached by bus, passenger car, taxi, streetcar, or foot. Indeed, if a person wanted to he could view the Capitol from a goat cart, an Irish Mail, or perched on a pogo stick.

But not the Grotto. That celebrated blue job can be reached by only one means, and that is lying down flat in the bottom of a rowboat. In case you haven't had the pleasure or misfortune, according to your lights, of visiting this marine phenomenon, here is a blow-by-blow description by a man who just got back.

You catch a small motor launch at the Capri docks and chug-chug for half an hour to the entrance of the Grotto, but you don't go into the Grotto in the launch. The entrance into the solid rock is shaped like a croquet wicket and is no more than three feet high and six feet wide.

With the arrival of every swell of the Mediterranean—and when I was there it was filled with more swells than a horse show—the entrance is completely blocked, and that's where the rowboats come in.

You must transfer from your launch to the tiny rowboat—no mean feat, I might add—and bob around until it is your guides' turn to take you in. At his command you stretch out flat in the bottom of the rowboat, which holds two ordinary or garden size tourists, and swallow salt water as he carefully paddles in toward the opening.

The guide is a delicate task. He must time his arrival at the entrance just a split sec-

ond after a wave has hit the rock. This leaves a trough and he must get the boat through before another wave arrives, else the boat and all concerned will be smashed.

He can't row in. Not enough room for paddles. So he grabs an iron chain that is fastened inside the Grotto and, with one desperate pull, slides the boat through into the calm waters of the Grotto.

Once inside, you forget all about the touch of seasickness you got from bobbing about while waiting your turn to come in, all about the water you swallowed, all about the shins you scraped hopping into the rowboat, and all about the fact that you still have to get out.

It's that beautiful. It's that breathtaking. It's that eerie.

No one has ever been able to explain what causes the waters of the Blue Grotto to assume such a magnificent color. There are innumerable other grottoes on Capri but none to compare with Mr. Blue, himself. No one dares to widen or heighten the entrance for fear a change in the lighting conditions would destroy what for centuries has been a marvel to mankind.

There's no describing the color of the water. Not for me, anyway. It's a blue that the heavens can't match, and any object placed under the surface shines like the purest silver. The quiet is like that of a cathedral, with not a sound save the soft plunk-plunk of the paddles as the guide moves you about in the cavern.

When you stretch out in the bottom of the boat once again, and pop out into the open sea, you feel as if you had had a dream.

But your aching back brings you back to reality.

(Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

Constantine Brown:

Sarajevo Crime in 1914 Recalled

Both State Department and Pentagon Are Worried Over Assassination of Iran's Strong Man

The Pentagon and State Department are worried over the murder of Iran's strong man, Premier Ali Razmara.

Because of disturbed conditions in North Africa and the Middle East, the possibility is not being discounted that the shots fired by Gen. Razmara's assassin may have repercussions similar to those which followed the killing of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo in 1914.

The assassin is said to have acted on his own and was not a member of any conspiratorial group. He stated that he killed the premier because he had not supported nationalization of Iran's oil fields. The fact that a man not involved in politics, and without personal interests in oil, committed a murder, strongly indicates how the rank and file Iranians feel about this hotly contested political issue.

The Soviet propagandists for some time have been denouncing the Tehran government's policies of continuing to allow the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. to exploit the country's oil wealth. The British have been using every available means to retain their old advantages. In recent weeks, the British company and the Iranian government renewed their oil agreement on terms which were far better for Iran than they had ever been.

Yet, a large segment of the population of Iran felt so strongly about the Soviet-advocated nationalization of oil that Gen. Razmara was murdered by a person who had no personal interest in the matter.

The late premier unquestionably was the ablest and strongest man in the country. Educated at the French Military Academy at St. Cyr, Gen. Razmara was "Western-minded." He believed that the future of his country would be better served by close ties with the West. But being a realist and a good soldier he knew that he could not balk the Russians without serious risk to Iran's sovereignty.

The Shah's kingdom narrowly escaped being taken over as a satellite of Russia in 1946 when the Russian-backed Azerbaijanis started a revolution

which brought their troops close to the gates of Teheran. The then young United Nations stepped in energetically and Iran was saved.

Gen. Razmara took office when Iran was at a low stage militarily and economically. He could not expect to organize an army strong enough to oppose the U. S. S. R. successfully. But he started creating a force which could give a good account of itself, even for a short period.

He turned to the United States for the help he needed to strengthen the military and economic fabric of his country. He appealed to us because he knew that America sought no selfish benefits from any assistance it granted free nations. We had been Iran's warm supporter before the United Nations in 1946.

Unfortunately the American Government was too busy recently helping other countries to pay particular attention to Iran. When the State Department appeared to drag its feet, the Shah came to America last year. He was well received. But this personal contact and the negotiations with the American Embassy at Teheran produced more promises than deeds.

Under such conditions Gen. Razmara decided to improve Iran's relations with the U. S. S. R. by negotiating a commercial treaty on terms as favorable for Iran as they were for Russia. He took good care to

see that the Russians did not slip into such an agreement any conditions which later could be interpreted as giving the Kremlin the right to intervene in the country's domestic affairs.

Iran was trying to become a neutral country in the East-West conflict. Gen. Razmara was aware that such neutrality would not survive an actual war between the Communists and the free world. But he hoped that so long as the cold war lasted he could, by clever diplomatic acrobatics, maintain a balance while he consolidated his country's power. He was on the way to achieving this when he was murdered.

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Doris Fleeson:

Wilson Must Patch Up Truce

Morse Sparks Limitation on Armed Force's Size In Sustained Attack on Manpower Program

The political consequences of labor's walk-out on the mobilization program are the subject of anxious debate among Democrats. They do not perceive much that can be done until Chief Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson, with or without President Truman's help, patches up some kind of truce with the angry labor leaders.

It is, of course, far too early to forecast what will happen; so much will depend on events and also on the kind of candidates nominated by the major parties. But what form independent political action by labor might take and the politician who is getting into position to take advantage of it are fairly clear.

Labor's gripe against the Truman form of mobilization is more than a dispute about wage stabilization, more even than a contest over manpower allocations as contended by Mr. Wilson. It is a basic distrust of a mobilization entrusted as they see it wholly to business, oriented solely to military needs.

The man who has been expressing this precise distrust is

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, the Republican maverick. Senator Morse almost has monopolized the Senate floor this week with a sustained attack on those provisions of the manpower program which, as he sees it, give the military too much rope. After repeated setbacks, he finally sparked a limitation on the size of the armed forces.

Senator Morse's maneuvers, immensely tiring to the press galleries, stem from his intense conviction that the military power is growing out of all proportion to the economic, political and social control exerted by Congress and the executive branch. He believes the military is asking for too much and that too little is being done to protect and guard civilian life.

Unlike Senator Taft who shares some of his sentiments about the military, Senator Morse is a thorough internationalist. He has a long record of support for international action and in general supports the social and economic reforms grouped under the Fair Deal label.

Others beside Senator Morse feel that mobilization is over-

emphasizing the military aspect. Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota puts it that: "On the military side, we act as if we were at war all right but in other fields, like price control, taxes and so on, we act as if we were in an amateur boxing match."

Recently Senator Morse, addressing a United Nations meeting in Chicago, declared that if his party nominated an isolationist, he would take a long walk out of it. He went on to talk about what Senator Morse stood for.

The Senator is a labor favorite and former member of the National War Labor Board. He has been at odds with the Taft leadership and was bitter last January when he felt he had deprived him of a seat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for which Senator Vandenberg supported him.

In another provocative angle of the situation, the powerful farm organizations are reported to be dickering about putting one of their spokesmen also at Mr. Wilson's right hand. They say that the farmer doesn't want to be the fall guy either in mobilization.

Thomas L. Stokes:

A Special Sort of Tyranny

Residents Here Face District Income Tax Yet Have No Voice in Government

The postman rings and hands in a formidable envelope, vaguely familiar. You open it and find the return for your District of Columbia income tax, due April 15, to help finance such city government as we have here, nothing very special, which operates mysteriously and without the citizens having any say whatever about it.

It's always a surprise—that D. C. tax return. You forget it—and then there it is and, to compound the felony, so to speak, it comes while you are struggling with that other tax form for the Federal Government.

Then, standing there in the vestibule, you go into your annual one-man revolution with a slogan which was good enough against King George the Third: "Taxation without representation."

It is a special sort of tyranny. For you have absolutely no say whatever about the District of Columbia government, under which you and your family live and nothing to say about how those fellows spend your money. Which offers the opportunity to remind folks in other parts of the country that citizens of this capital of what we proudly call the greatest democracy in the world have no vote—and no democracy.

Please note that—once again. For people in the rest of the country, if they would, could help us out. They elect Congress and Congress runs our city through a board of commissioners who are appointed by the President—not by us—but Congress still won't give us a vote to elect our own city government—or for anything else, such as President and Congress.

The same day the "greetings" arrived about the District of Columbia income tax to help support local government in which we have no voice, something else happened at the Capitol which shows how stupid and silly our government setup is. The House District of Columbia Committee voted against us having daylight-saving time here. Why? Because some members representing farmers hundreds of miles away—who

don't like daylight-saving time—are afraid to vote it for us. It might offend those farmer constituents hundreds of miles away. On this issue we are blocked by Congressmen from, specifically, Mississippi, Georgia, Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska—as the vote showed.

The whole committee wasn't there for the vote and eventually we'll probably get daylight time approved by Congress but, as last year, it may happen late after the rest of the East already has gone on daylight time, which makes for all sorts of unnecessary confusion.

We want it here. Periodic polls show that. But that does not have any effect with farm Congressmen.

We want the vote here, too. And a city government of our own. Recurrently we have had plebiscites here on that question. They are special occasions for voteless citizens. You go hand-in-hand with your wife—all dressed up—to a local school-house. Every time the vote has been overwhelming in favor of us having the right to vote. But we don't get it.

Why? Well, a group of Southerners in the District of Columbia Committee of the House of Representatives, headed by Chairman John L. McMillan, a Democrat from South Carolina, always block it. They have just decided arbitrarily that democracy is not for us. It seems to have something to do with Negroes voting here and having an influence in government. But lots of Negroes vote now in South Carolina and in other Southern States.

The Senate passed a bill in

the last Congress to give us a vote—and unanimously. But Mr. McMillan of South Carolina locked it up in his House Committee. Thereupon a petition was circulated to force the committee to discharge the bill for a House vote. It got up to only a few short of the required 218 signatures, a majority of the House. Then Republicans called a party caucus and a number of Republican names were withdrawn from the petition. House Republicans play footy with Southern Democrats. Abe Lincoln notwithstanding. So the bill never got to the floor.

New bills have been introduced in both branches in the new Congress. In the Senate a Southern Democrat, Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, is its ardent champion, as he was in the last Congress. Senator Taft of Ohio is likewise a sponsor.

But in the House the Confederate flag still flies over Fort Sumter.

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